



California Emergency Management Agency

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2010

ERI Ensures Stability for Emergency Response

- Matthew Bettenhausen, Secretary



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As another challenging State budget cycle begins, I would like to take this opportunity to explain the benefits the Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) would provide to the entire State of California if approved as part of the 2010-2011 budget. The economic ups and downs of the General Fund are well documented. The ERI would provide a stable funding source, not subject to those swings, to provide emergency response and mutual aid in catastrophic disasters, both natural and man-made, to all Californians.

The ERI provides necessary funding to

enable first responders to coordinate statewide efforts through a strengthening of the California Mutual Aid System. Currently, this system is at the breaking point. A system breakdown in the midst of earthquake, levee break, fire, flood, or terrorist disaster would have dire consequences. The strength of the mutual aid system directly correlates to homeowners insurance rates. Without it, rates will increase.

The ERI would replace the outdated fire helicopters that Cal Fire uses would be updated with eleven modern, night flight capa-

ble helicopters, allowing for around the clock service and, therefore, faster response times. This is about stabilized funding for disaster preparation throughout our state.

The ERI also provides for 150 new heavy rescue fire engines as recommended by the 2003 Blue Ribbon Commission. While ready to be brought into statewide service at any time, these engines would be housed in local fire districts, enabling local communities to use them proactively for their own emergency response needs. Furthermore, more than one third of the ERI

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Cal EMA Announces Funding To Fight Human Trafficking

During a press event held at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles on January 11, 2010, Cal EMA announced the award of \$3.75 million dollars through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Stimulus funds to the six current Human Trafficking Task Forces in California. The funding will be used to support these task forces, and two additional task forces, as part of the

Schwarzenegger Administration's efforts to eliminate human trafficking in California.

"The heinous crime of human trafficking is a scourge on our society", said Cal EMA Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen in announcing the grant

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Secretary Bettenhausen announcing Cal EMA's grant award of \$2.7 million to combat human trafficking

Cal EMA Transfers Gateway Communication Unit to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department



Inside the Gateway
Photo by Robert Eplett,
Cal EMA

On January 7, 2010, representatives from Cal EMA, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and local agencies participated in an event recognizing the transfer of a Cal EMA Mobile Interoperability Gateway Unit (MIGU) to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. This gateway unit is a tool that will serve to provide communications capabilities between multiple responding agencies in the event of a major incident.

"In an emergency, communication is critical – especially between first responders," said Cal EMA Secretary Matthew

Bettenhausen. "These units are a great asset in emergency management because they allow for information to be shared quickly and accurately between multiple agencies, which enable emergency responders to better protect public health and safety during times of crisis."

Developed by Cal EMA and funded through federal Homeland Security grants, the "gateways" are a key element in California's emergency tool kit. Each unit is equipped with a variety of communication technologies that

bridge the gap between disparate radio systems, allowing communication to flow easily between first responders from different agencies.



San Bernardino County Sheriff, Rod Hoops addresses event attendees at the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department.
Photo by Robert Eplett, Cal EMA.

San Bernardino's gateway unit is one of six being deployed through-

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Governor Schwarzenegger Visits LA EOC January Storm Briefing

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joined Cal EMA Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen and Undersecretary Frank McCarton at the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center on Friday, January 22nd to receive a comprehensive briefing on the condition of the state after a series of wet and windy winter storms pounded California. Los Angeles County Supervisors Michael D. Antonovich and Zev Yaroslavsky, City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, State

Assemblymembers Kevin De Leon and Anthony J. Portantino, and Senator Carol Liu also attended the briefing to hear how local officials were continuing to shore up the unpredictable burn areas after last year's devastating "Station Fire" near La Canada Flintridge.

The weather systems that began in the third week of January unleashed torrents of rain, as well as hail, gale-force winds and even tornadoes, flooding streets, closing highways, canceling numerous airline flights and pounding beaches

with waves as tall as two-story buildings. The storms were blamed for at least three deaths, including two people crushed by falling trees. Thousands of homes were evacuated by local officials in anticipation of the storms. Many of those evacuated were in the suburbs north of Los Angeles, nestled against steep hillsides and canyons left barren by a massive wildfire last summer and saturated by heavy rain that began in the third week of January. The storms were the heaviest to strike the region since at

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Beverly Hills Opens New Emergency Operations Center

The City of Beverly Hills unveiled its new, high-tech Emergency Operations

cameras, and other leading-edge technologies being tested in the city.

Scientists warn that there is a 98 percent chance that a significant earthquake will occur in the next 30 years. The City is also a high-risk area for the three biggest disasters: earthquakes, urban wild fires and terrorism. Through the efforts of the City's Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with all city operations, Beverly Hills is aggressively addressing the potential for each type of emergency.

This center supports those efforts by providing a single location where departments would come together to

develop a uniformed response. It would also allow the City to coordinate efforts with its partners at the county, state and federal levels, as appropriate.

"The role of the Council starts and ends with keeping our City safe," said Mayor Nancy Krasne. "It is the most important job we do and that is why we have been so committed to making this Emergency Operations Center a priority. While I hope that we never have to use this center for a real emergency, I sleep better at night knowing what we have here. Our residents should feel secure knowing that in any emergency, services will operate in a coordinated effort, under one roof, no matter what happens," she continued.

"Our residents should feel secure knowing that in any emergency, services will operate in a coordinated effort, under one roof, no matter what happens"

***- Nancy Krasne
Mayor,
City of Beverly Hills***



Mayor Mark Egerman, Mayor Nancy Krasne, Vice Mayor Jimmy Delshad, Councilmember William W. Brien, MD, and Councilmember John Mirisch

Center, a central point of coordination and information dissemination in the event of a disaster, on January 13, 2010. The state-of-the-art center provides citywide departments with real-time mapping, interactive displays, CCTV field

ERI Continued

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funding would supply local communities with the support to facilitate communication with the state mutual aid system, provide emergency training and enable local communities to purchase desperately needed fire and rescue equipment.

The ERI is not a tax. This is a nominal 4.8 percentage insurance fee on property premiums. This translates to an average \$48 per household, or less than \$1 a week. As I see the devastation ravaged by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti and the \$43 million damage estimate from the 6.5 magnitude earthquake in Humboldt County, I firmly believe that this is a small price to pay to ready ourselves and the safety of our families.

The potential for catastrophic disasters is here. It is real. It is time to ready ourselves. We can no longer "hope for the best" when it comes to funding our emergency response. We must bind together to ensure the safety of our families, our property and our future. This is the responsibility of each and every one of us who call this great state home.

Gov. Visits LA EOC Continued

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least 2005 according to the National Weather Service. At the peak of the storms, nearly 200,000 customers were left without power and some roads remained closed for over a week.

Cal EMA's experienced emergency management staff in the Inland, Coastal and Southern Regions worked closely with first responders, local emergency managers and state agencies throughout the state as the storm systems moved through. A series of conference calls with the National Weather Service and other key agencies were conducted to ensure that they could adequately anticipate the impacts of the storm and send resources where they were needed the most.

Human Trafficking Continued

(Continued from page 1)

awards. "With our extensive international border, major harbors and airports, large immigrant population, powerful economy and our industries, we are a prime target for

traffickers". These funds will help deliver needed support, shelter, counseling and legal services to victims and to help law enforcement uncover and prosecute those involved in this modern-day form of slavery."

California currently has six multi-jurisdiction Human Trafficking Task Forces: Los Angeles, San Diego,

San Francisco, San Jose, Orange County (Westminster) and Oakland. These existing task forces and the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) they partner with will receive the \$2.25m over a three year time period. Each task force will receive a total of \$375,000. Two additional task forces will be determined competitively, based on anti human trafficking needs, in two unrepresented regions of California.

These additional task forces will receive slightly more funds to help with start up costs and normal operations. The two new

task forces will receive \$750,000 over a three year time period totaling \$1.5 million.

These funds will assist the Human Trafficking Task Forces in identifying and successfully prosecuting traffickers through proactive law enforcement tactics. Task forces will also use these funds to develop better training for law enforcement agencies, victim service providers and the public to identify and assist victims of human trafficking.

"By its very nature human trafficking, in all of its forms, is largely hidden from view. These grant funds will help bring this insidious problem to light and to provide the tools necessary to help

end", said Secretary Bettenhausen.

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) is one of the NGOs involved in this effort. "CAST and its coalition partners through the Los Angeles Metropolitan Taskforce are thrilled to learn that Cal EMA will be supporting human trafficking taskforces in California," said CAST Executive Director Kay Buck. "Cal EMA has been such a great partner in our efforts to support the critical work of law enforcement and NGO's working collaboratively to hold traffickers accountable and protect victims. This initiative once again puts California on the map as



U.S. Representative Loretta Sanchez joins Secretary Bettenhausen as Kay Buck, CAST President, speaks from the podium

victims and catch the criminals. The Governor and First Lady have provided strong leadership in this fight, both in setting new laws and providing public awareness and we look forward to working with all the task forces to bring this practice to an

a national leader against slavery and human trafficking."

For more information about Human Trafficking and all of Cal EMA's programs, please visit www.calema.ca.gov

Cal EMA Introduces Exercise Support Program

The Exercise Division is proud to announce the new Cal EMA Exercise Support Program. The program is designed to support state agencies, jurisdictions and organizations in exercising multi-jurisdictional/multi-agency exercise initiatives, and high priority state issues. The Exercise Support Program can assist with a

variety of discussion based exercises, such as:

Seminars: An exercise that allows you to present information, or educate key stakeholders on a developed a plan, policy, or procedure.

Workshops: An exercise to that help you and key stakeholders develop a plan,

policy, or procedure.

Tabletops: An exercise that allows you and key stakeholders to exercise a plan, policy or procedure you're familiar with, in a low stress environment.

For more information about this program, please visit www.calema.ca.gov.

Gateway Continued

out California's Mutual Aid Regions. Gateways will also be located at Cal EMA Headquarters in Mather, CA; Cal EMA's Southern Region Office in Los Alamitos, as well as sheriff's offices in Colusa, San Luis Obispo and San Mateo counties. Deployable 24/7 upon request through Cal EMA's resource management system, the strategic positioning statewide allows for a gateway to be on scene of an emergency within one hour.

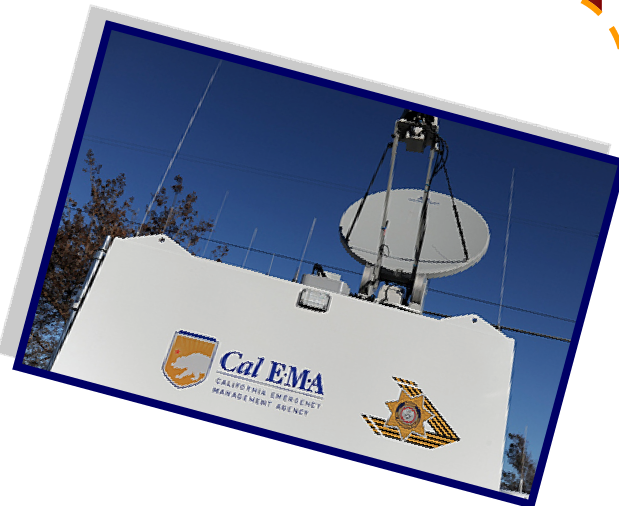
Each unit was funded by both US Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program (approximately \$234,000/unit) and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) grants

(approximately \$41,700/unit) and includes communications features such as Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) Satellite Transportable Earth Station, Internet capability, video teleconferencing, audio gateway switch for patching radio equipment, high frequency and V/UHF radios, and more.

The gateways can be utilized to provide communication capabilities at any number of locations such as natural disasters/environmental events, mutual aid situations, planned events such as

demonstrations and protests, search and rescue, and other multi-jurisdictional events.

For more information, please visit Cal EMA's website at www.calema.ca.gov.





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